



# ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

November 3 to November 17, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

**Week of 11/17:** The Buffalo, New York, Police Department utilized ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link a recovered firearm to a shooting more than a year earlier. Police responded to a call of a shooting and found a victim who had been shot twice. He told police he was in his driveway, when three unknown assailants surrounded him. One of the suspects fired a pistol at the victim and then they all fled. Casings and projectiles were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Over a year later, Buffalo Police responded to a report of a person with a gun. When police arrived at the scene, the suspect began to run and was observed throwing a weapon to the ground. He was caught and the firearm was recovered, test fired and entered into NIBIN resulting in the link to the shooting a year earlier. Also, it was discovered that the recovered firearm was one of a large group of guns that had been trafficked from Ohio to Buffalo.

**Week of 11/10:** Utilizing ballistic imaging through NIBIN, the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Police Department was able to link a gun recovered in a robbery and assault on a police officer to a cartridge casing found at the scene of a robbery and assault a month earlier. Police were called to the scene of a reported shooting and found a victim who had been shot during the course of a robbery. The victim had entered an apartment building, was assaulted by three suspects who took his wallet and keys, and was shot by one of the suspects who fled the scene. The victim was able to identify one of the suspects and later identified the remaining two suspects from photos. Approximately a month later, police were called to a convenience store that had been robbed. The first officer to respond pulled into the parking lot of the convenience store, got out of his car and was shot in the leg by one of the two suspects. The suspects ran and held up in a nearby residence. The SWAT team was able to arrest the suspects and recovered four handguns and numerous cartridge casings in several calibers. Entry of the casings into NIBIN resulted in a hit for one of the 9mm pistols used in both of the robberies.

**Week of 11/3:** Use of the NIBIN system linked cartridge casings recovered by the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Police Department at the scene of a shooting to a gun found by the Wyoming, Michigan, Police Department in the search of a home in a narcotics case a week later. The Grand Rapids Police responded to a call of shots fired where persons had been wounded. At the scene, officers found two victims who claimed they had been shot while sitting on the front porch of a home. Both victims told police the shots came from a nearby intersection and they did not see who fired them. Several witnesses gave conflicting information concerning possible suspects and vehicles involved. Further investigation by the police indicated that two of the witnesses, who were related to one of the victims, might have exchanged gunfire with the suspects. No guns were found, but shell casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into IBIS. A week later, Wyoming Police arrived at an apartment building in response to a report of the odor of marijuana coming from one of the apartments. Officers requested to search the apartment and located drugs, drug paraphernalia, and two pistols. Two individuals were taken into custody; one of the suspects was a victim in the Grand Rapids shooting the week before. The pistols were test fired and entered into IBIS, resulting in a match to some of the shell casings found at the scene of the Grand Rapids shooting. Charges were filed for narcotics and firearms violations. The victim in the first shooting that was arrested for narcotics violations by the Wyoming Police was convicted in Federal Court and imprisoned.